2/25/87 A3572-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 20, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 14 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 3.4 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first seven weeks of 1987 was an estimated 113.5 billion ton-miles, down 2.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 14 totaled 387,984, up 5.2 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 0.9 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.4 percent in the East and up 8.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Coal showed a gain of 1,779 cars (1.7 percent) while chemicals and allied products increased by 1,790 cars (7.2 percent). Eleven of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 7 totaled 98,531 trailers and/or containers, 2.9 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first six weeks of the year was 534,636 trailers and/or containers, up 2.3 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/14/87:

	Loadings in Week ended February 14, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,692	I	3,418	14.7	D	616	2.3
Other farm products	3,405	I	555	19.5	D	359	9.5
Metallic ores	12,343	I	325	2.7	D	612	4.7
Coal	108,316	I	1,779	1.7	D	4,377	3.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,656	I	1,588	17.5	I	391	3.8
Nonmetallic minerals	8,785	D	1,181	11.9	D	458	5.0
Grain mill products	11,589	I	607	5.5	I	397	3.5
Food and kindred products	11,509	I	507	4.6	D	106	0.9
Primary forest products	11,251	I	306	2.8	I	228	2.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,167	I	859	11.8	I	392	5.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,170	D	368	2.7	I	178	1.4
Chemicals and allied products	26,775	I	1,790	7.2	I	762	2.9
Petroleum products	4,675	D	557	10.6	D	1	0.0
Stone, clay and glass products	9,669	I	1,161	13.6	I	775	8.7
Coke	4,238	D	624	12.8	D	73	1.7
Metals and products	9,007	I	1,014	12.7	I	550	6.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,241	D	567	2.5	D	49	0.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,895	I	290	3.4	I	214	2.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,862	D	2,820	49.6	D	297	9.4
All other carloads	73,636	I	10,980	17.5	D	414	0.6
LCL traffic	103	D	32	23.7	I	2	2.0
Total Cars Loaded	387,984	I	19,030	5.2	D	3,473	0.9
Corresponding week of 1986	368,954						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (7 weeks)	2,517,766	2,567,953	D 2.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
6 Weeks ended February 7	96.1	99.8	D 3.7
Week ended February 14	17.4	16.8	I 3.4
7 Weeks cumulative	113.5	116.6	D 2.6

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